## What is an API key?

Any single IP address (User) posting more than 3 requests per second to the NCBI database without an API key will receive an error message. By including an API key, a user can post up to 10 requests per second by default.

An API key is a unique string that you include in your HTTP requests that identifies you to NCBI servers. Think of the API key as a ‘turbocharger’ that lets you get more data, faster, from NCBI.

Only one API key is allowed per NCBI account; however, a user may request a new key at any time. Such a request will invalidate any existing API key associated with that NCBI account.

## How to get an API key

Users can obtain an API key now from the Settings page of their NCBI account (to create an account, visit [http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/account/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/account/)).

To create the key, go to the “Settings” page of your NCBI account. (Hint: after signing in, simply click on your NCBI username in the upper right corner of any NCBI page.)

You’ll see a new “API Key Management” area. Click the “Create an API Key” button and copy the resulting key.

## How to establish your API key in your R environment

Create a file in your server profile home directory, and name it ‘.Renviron’. You can type in the following:

nano .Renviron

This will open a new text file. In this text file type in the following:

ENTREZ\_KEY=’yournewkey’

Save the file (cntrl X).

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Details on R’s Setup: <https://rviews.rstudio.com/2017/04/19/r-for-enterprise-understanding-r-s-startup/>